The Southern PATRIOT

Vol. 13. No. 9 Published by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. November, 1955

SCEF, NAACP, SRC Are Attacked by Cook

GEORGIA STATE OFFICIAL HURLS SMEAR AT THREE GROUPS

In previously asserting the Southern Conference Educational Fund's determination to fight the smears cast upon it by Senator Eastland and the American Legion, we declared that we felt their attacks were directed at all organizations and individuals who opposed racial discrimination.

This feeling has been grimly confirmed by events. Georgia's Attorney-General, Eugene Cook unveiled the Dixiecrat strategy in a speech before the Peace Officers Association of Georgia convention in Atlanta on October 19.

Cook's oration, entitled "The Ugly Truth About the NAACP" and widely circulated in mimeographed copies, accuses the NAACP, the SCEF, the Southern Regional Council, and the SRC affiliate, the Georgia Committee on Interracial Cooperation, of promoting "Communist-inspired doctrine."

Senator Eastland declared in Jackson, Miss., on Oct. 20, that Georgia's Attorney General Cook was "on the right track" in his attacks on the NAACP. Eastland said he suspected that the NAACP was "heavily infiltrated" with Communists and that it might be "timely' 'to investigate the organiaztion's source of income.

Cook based his ugly charges on "research" by his staff and "the staffs of Congressman James C. Davis of Georgia and Senator James O. Eastland of Mississippi."

He devotes five single-spaced, legal-size pages to quoting "the files of the House Un-American Activities Committee" for the "records of affiliation with or participation in Communist, Communist-front, fellow-traveling or subversive organizations or activities" on the part of some 80 NAACP national board members and officials. One interesting paragraph declares:

"Two other vice-presidents and three other directors are well-known apologists for left-wing causes. The two vice-presidents are Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon and Eric Johnston of the motion-picture industry. The three directors are Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, CIO President Walter Reuther, and Senator Herbert H. Lehman of New York."

Then Cook starts spreading the slander around:

"The NAACP is being aided and abetted in its agitation by three "front" organizations on the Southern scene, the Southern Conference Educational Fund; the Southern Regional Council, and the SRC's affiliate, the Georgia Committee on Interracial Cooperation.

"The Southern Conference Educational Fund and the Southern Regional Council are both dominated by individuals who, like the officials of the NAACP, have long records of affinity for and participation in Communist, Communist-front, fellow-traveling, left-wing, and subversive activities. Sworn testimony taken by both House and Senate committees has placed known Communists in both organizations and the Southern Conference Educational Fund may soon be designated a subversive organization."

Thus the stain spreads. And Cook, having flung the slander, follows up with a scantly swathed club. He calls the Georgia Committee on Interracial Cooperation "a perfect example of an organization formed for the purpose of exploiting the names, reputations, and services of well-intentioned do-gooders. It is composed of some of Georgia's most distinguished clergymen and most prominent civic and social leaders who have been duped into doing the bidding of the more sinister elements manipulating the Southern Regional Council.

"Investigations currently are being made of all three organizations—the results of which will greately embarrass those good citizens who unwittingly have become involved in their activities. I urge all such persons to take immediate steps to disassociate themselves from these groups and to disavow their programs and leaders before they, their friends and their congregations are exposed to the anguish and embarrassment which exposure of these groups will necessarily mean."

Cook does not amount to much, of himself. He is a political rainmaker, hoping to conjure up the storm clouds and lightning that might make him governor of the state. But his devil-drumming and the echoing thumps and screams of all the other witch doctors in the South promise a noisesome time for the advocates of democracy in the South.

"Common Sense," the notorious anti-Semitic, racist sheet, printed in its September issue much of the same material used by Cook—the early publication date indicating a mutual source of supply.

Mr. Cook's performance proves, too—if any possible doubt remains—that the cause of integration is indivisible. The issue is so basic and profound that it is simple—and the forces opposing integration are so rabid that they will not permit any degrees, even if any were logically possible. This is not the hour for the summer soldier. This is the moment of Truth, and the old lie is dying hard.

LOOK HERE, MR. COOK!

From the Claxton, Ga., Enterprise: "We can dislike NAACP—and we are one who believes its leaders made a bad mistake in pressing the school issue to a showdown—but it is not a subversive organization; it is not on the FBI list. Its aim is simply to advance the interests of the race that makes up its membership.

"And this is America, not Russia, not Germany in the days of Hitler. You don't try to cure a case of typhoid fever by giving the patient the bubonic plague. And you don't try to deal with a segregation issue by taking away the liberties of American citizens."

We Recommend

"We refused to give up our homes", by Selwyn James. Report on the integration of a Teaneck, New Jersey community in the December REDBOOK.

The Southwide Conference on Integration set for November in Atlanta has been postponed. When the date is definite, it will be announced in the Patriot.

LETTERS: ABSURDITY OF EASTLAND REPORT ROUSES INDIGNATION

To the Editor:

I am glad to get the information regarding the Eastland report. I am writing him and also to Attorney General Brownell as to its absurdity.

I think to sue the Legion would be a wise step if such a procedure would meet the approval of a careful lawyer. I do not know the technicalities of law. However, I shall write a strong letter to Eastland and Brownell.

C. H. HAMLIN,
Atlantic Christian College
Wilson, N. C.

* * *

To the Editor:

Wish I could give more. As a lifelong pacifist I've been called subversive myself—I'm 86 with pension only.

AGNES CHASE,
Washington, D. C.

* * *

To the Editor:

I have written both Eastland and Brownell. Is there no practical possibility of getting a combined attack on this whole tragic nonsense of subversive listings? Do you know how generally liberal organizations see its folly?

FRANCIS GOODELL,
Yarmouthport, Mass.

* * *

To the Editor:

Two nights ago Dean Griswold of the Harvard Law School and P. Dickerman Williams debated on the Fifth Amendment in a Harvard Law School forum. Perhaps Griswold subscribes to the **Southern Patriot**, for in illustrating under what conditions a man might become sufficiently frustrated or scared that he would invoke the Fifth Amendment, he quoted that appalling exchange between Mr. Smith and Eastland ending in the latter's "I will announce (any other rules of procedure) when I desire. Proceed."

We are just starting to organize in Cambridge a Freedom Agenda Program designed to stimulate community discussion of freedoms, and I think the Eastland report on the SCEF should provide excellent illustration of the challenge facing those freedoms.

F. MALCOM FORBES,
Cambridge, Mass.

* * *

To the Editor:

For many months I have intended to write you an expression of appreciation for the noble work you are carrying on. The cowardly accusations against you by the American Legion and the perverted people called Dixiecrats have so filled me with indignation that I cannot convey to you my feelings in calm phrases.

Please accept my simple word of profound gratitude and appreciation for your courageous stand in the cause of justice for my people.

The enclosed check is but feeble evidence of my wholehearted confidence and support.

U. G. BAILEY, M.D.
Chicago, Ill.

* * *

To the Editor:

Your cause, I believe, is a good and worthy one, and I wish I could really help. However, I am an old man and alone on "state old-age assistance" and really unable to help at all. Herein is a very small amount.

GILBERT L. WILBRIGHT,
Hermosa Beach, Fla.

* * *

To the Editor:

I an enrolled in the Vanderbilt School of Religion, working on a Bachelor of Divinity degree in religious eduction . . . I remember very pleasantly the youth conference in Columbia.

Enclosed is a contribution. Use it to fight Eastland and the American Legion. I get **furious** every time I read of their activities against the SCEF.

MOLLY O'STEEN,
Nashville, Tenn.

* * *

To the Editor:

The actions of Senator Eastland seem to constitute a real threat to civil liberties. Enclosed is my check for ten dollars.

MURRAY H. LEIFFER,
Garrett Biblical Institute
Evanston, Ill.

P. S. I would suggest that the editors of the Southern Patriot use more restrained language in describing the American Legion and even Senator Eastland. This does not mean they are right, for I do not think they are. But abusive, vitriolic language rarely helps a cause.

* * *

To the Editor:

I have made small contributions from time to time to the Southern Educational Conference Fund, Inc. I was glad to participate in this small way to what I considered a good cause. I have read the **Southern Patriot** with some interest for a year or more.

The last issue disturbs me. That you have just cause for indignation I will assume to be correct: it is entirely possible that the Southern Conference and its leaders have been unfairly, unjustly accused. I hold no brief for many of the attitudes and activities of the American Legion. Senator Eastland's reputation, so far as I can gather is not of the best.

And still I am disturbed by the tone of your last issue. It reads to my mind suspiciously like Communist literature. I have lived for two years in Finland where I had the opportunity for knowing the Communist style of journalism and the last issue of the Southern Patriot had striking similarities to that style: "the hacks who edit the Firing Line", "character assassins", "hint-and-ruin style of journalism", "the discredited misfits", "The congenital liar Paul Crouch", "these scoundrels", the Firing Line's "garbage barrage", "a mad mulch of distortion", etc., etc.

I do not know the facts. These phrases may properly characterize the people and actions described, but the whole tone of this issue was bitter, screaming, denunciatory. It was, to my semi-sophisticated mind, in keeping with the tactics of the Communist press. No one in this business of obtaining rights for all Americans, regardless of color, should be surprised when in doing so a hornets nest is stirred up. The last issue of the **Southern Patriot** sounded to my ears like the outraged tantrum of an immature mind and spirit.

I have lost confidence in your paper. Unless some explanation can be given I will not be able to make further contributions to the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc.

STUART MOORE,
St. Louis, Mo.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above letters expressing dissatisfaction with the tone of the leading article in September's Patriot, and to those other readers who may have been disturbed, the author of the article offers this explanation:

"Mr. Moore has indeed made a pertinent collection of the epithets I employed, and while I admit they look pretty horrible strung one after the other I have to confess that I still mean every one of them. It was my hope at the time that the data presented in the rest of the issue would make others see how well those I indicated deserved it. Indeed, I fondly thought there was a touch of trenchant wit in "hint-and-ruin" and "garbage barrage."

"But now, upon reflection, I agree with Dr. Leiffer that 'abusive, vitriolic language rarely helps a cause.' In defense of myself as I felt at the time of writ-

(Continued on Page 4.)

A Congressman Asks Questions

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

October 5, 1955

Honorable Herbert Brownell, Jr.
Department of Justice
Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I have reason to believe that the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, headed by Senator Eastland of Mississippi, which conducted hearings and has asked for a federal ruling on whether the Southern Conference Educational Fund is a subversive organization is trying to discredit the fund because of its support of the school desegregation issue.

I have made some investigation of the background of this group and these findings in no way indicate a subversive character. If you have some information which I do not have that would disprove my findings, I would appreciate receiving it.

May I also request that in establishing a ruling with regard to the Southern Conference Educational Fund you give due and thorough consideration to the relationship of the hearings and request to Mississippi's fight against the Supreme Court order for desegregation.

I shall look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Respectfully,
CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.
Member of Congress

A Justice Official Replies

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Charles C. Diggs, Jr.
House of Representative
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Congressman:

Your letter of October 5, 1955, to the Attorney General regarding the Southern Conference Educational Fund has been referred to this Division for reply.

This Department frequently receives similar requests for information, and in each instance is constrained to reply that, much as it would like to be of assistance, the Department is limited by law to servicing the executive departments and agencies of the federal government in the exercise of official functions. In the circumstances I am sure you will appreciate that I am unable to furnish the information requested.

I can advise you, however, that the Southern Conference Educational Fund has not been designated by this Department as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450 relating to the federal employee security program, the only authority under which it may characterize organizations.

Your suggestion has been noted and made a matter of record in the Department and your interest in communicating with the Attorney General is appreciated.

If I can be of assistance to you in any other matter, please do not hesitate to communicate with me.

Sincerely,
WILLIAM F. TOMPKINS
Assistant Attorney General

CHURCH AND LABOR FIGHT FOR RIGHT IN TEXTILE TOWN

DALTON

A blatant use of witch-hunt tactics for the purpose of union-busting brought a sharp counter-attack from SCEF President Aubrey Williams last month.

Dalton, Ga., was the scene. It is the site of a great number of chenille rug and bedspread mills. The mills, Northern owned, are unorganized and wages are low. It is the home base of the Church of God of the Union Assembly, which has congregations in nine Southern states and to which many of Dalton's textile workers belong.

The Textile Workers Union of America (CIO) launched an organizing drive in Dalton, and the response was good. The church and the church's newspaper **The Southerner**, edited by the Rev. Don L. West, solidly backed the union.

West, well-known as the poet spokesman for the underprivileged in the South, has devoted his life to backing up his words with deeds. And the mill owners and their agents decided he could be painted a Red devil, so the union movement would be discredited.

The Dalton newspapers, the **News** and the **Citizen**, owned by the public-relations man for the mills, devoted whole pages, "as a public service," to attacks on West —citing the rancid files of the House Un-American Activities Committee. The local posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars joined the hunt.

When a strike was declared at one of the mills by workers seeking union recognition, the mills drove home the point by firing 51 workers who had stated they were Church of God members in special questionnaires demanded of all employees.

Then the Dalton newspapers, running low on "public service" features, began smearing the contributing editors of **The Southerner**. Among this group are Aubrey Williams and Alva W. Taylor, SCEF Secretary and known the South over for his many years of militant Christainity. The paper devoted a full page to their "records."

Taylor was not able, because of illness, to respond to the challenge. But Aubrey Williams invited the Dalton editor to a public debate on the charges he had leveled. The editor declined. On the night of Oct. 14 the SCEF president addressed a capacity crowd of 5,000 at the church auditorium in Dalton, and explained to them how hysteria over Communism was being deliberately fomented by special-interest groups. He cited from recent studies by the Ford Foundation and others which showed the ridiculous extremes "loyalty" investigations have reached. He cited the sorry record of the professional informers who have fed data to various investigating committees. The speech was carried over local radio stations.

The mill owners countered by bringing down Edgar Bundy, a professional American Legionnaire from Wheaton, Ill. Bundy, former member of the Illinois Legion Americanism Commission, quoted the minor-league informers John and Martha Edminston as saying that West

(Continued on Page 4.)

'THE MAN IN KENTUCKY'

Peter H. Robinson of Jacksonville, Fla., in sending his annual contribution to the SCEF enclosed a like amount "to be sent to the man in Kentucky who got into trouble, trying to do good, but in turn found himself being persecuted."

The check was forwarded to Carl Braden, P. O. Box 1302, Louisville 1, Ky.